

REMARKS

The present amendment is filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination. After amendment claims 1-106, 110-112, 116-125 and 148-208 are pending. Claims 1 and 125 were amended. Claims 107-109, 113-115 and 126-147 were cancelled. Claims 150-208 were added.

Applicants respectfully point out that claims 150-208 were added strictly to preserve applicants' rights under 35 U.S.C. 135(b). The claims were copied from U.S. Patent 6,676,665 its previous publication number U.S. 2002/0026197 and its continuation application published as U.S 2004/0153064.

This response refers primarily to the patentability of the independent claims. The patentability of the dependent claims follows at least for the reason of being dependent on an independent claim that is patentable. The applicants reserve the right to argue the dependent claims later and respectfully request a personal interview if the Examiner feels an allowance is not forthcoming.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner stated that claims 107-109 and 113-115 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. In order to expedite the prosecution, these claims were cancelled.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner states that claims 1-16, 19-24, 27, 28, 30, 31, 34-49, 51-68, 70, 78-81, 84-86, 89-95 and 99-125 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pisharodi (U.S. Patent No. 5,693,100) or under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious in view of Pisharodi and optionally one or more other references. Applicants respectfully disagree but have amended the claims to further the issuance of the application.

Both of the independent claims 1 and 125, were amended to include the limitation that when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, and the peaks of the extensions are separated from each other along the tube axis. This limitation was added instead of the wording "axially displaced" which was not accepted by the Examiner.

Pisharodi shows extensions all at a same axial location and each formed of two legs (34 and 36, Figs. 6 and 7). All the extensions are in the same axial position of the implant of Pisharodi and form peaks at the same axial position along the tube. Even if each of the two legs (34 and 36)

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is considered a separate leg extension, as stated by the Examiner, the peaks of the leg extensions are in the same axial location of the tube.

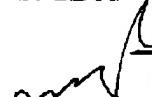
The dependent claims are patentable at least because claim 1 is patentable. Applicant refrains from stating additional patentable points of the dependent claims, in order to expedite the prosecution of the application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the prior art. If the Examiner does not agree regarding one or more of the claims, but is of the opinion that a telephone conversation may forward the present application toward allowance, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned at 1 (877) 428-5468. Please note that this is a direct *toll free* number in the US that is answered in the undersigned's Israel office. Israel is 7 hours ahead of Washington. Our normal work week is Sunday through Thursday.

Also, applicants' agent intends to be in the Washington D.C. area within the next three weeks and will probably request a personal interview with the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,
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